

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, April 16, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 57, SENATE DRAFT 1
EXPANDING THE TASK FORCE STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF THE JANUARY 2014
FUEL TANK LEAK AT THE RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY,
ESTABLISHED UNDER SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73, H.D. 1,
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014, TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-SIX
UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANKS IN THE STATE
OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES MILITARY**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 57, Senate Draft 1 proposes to expand the task force study of the effects of the January 2014 fuel tank leak at the Red Hill underground fuel storage facility to include an additional twenty-six underground fuel storage tanks in the state owned by the United States Military and to continue to monitor the United States Navy's plans for remediation of the Red Hill facility fuel tanks. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure but defers to the Department of Health on its implementation and offers the following comments.**

Our underground aquifers are the major source of drinking water for the people of Hawaii. We have a public trust obligation to protect and preserve the quality and sustainability of this valuable resource for current and future generations.

Underground storage tanks are a potential major threat to the public trust water resources of the State. It is critical that all owners and operators of underground storage tanks regularly monitor for leaks using approved methods, maintain adequate records, and meet corrosion protection, spill, and overfill requirements as required by the Department of Health. These systems are prone to leak over time, as evidenced by the recent case regarding the Red Hill fuel storage tanks.

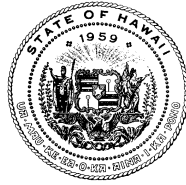
CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department notes that a representative from the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management participated on the Red Hill Task Force that was led by the Department of Health.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 57 SD1

**EXPANDING THE TASK FORCE STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF THE JANUARY 2014
FUEL TANK LEAK AT THE RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE
FACILITY, ESTABLISHED UNDER SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73,
H.D.1, REGULAR SESSION OF 2014, TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-SIX
UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANKS IN THE STATE OWNED BY THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: **April 16, 2015**
Time: **11:00 A.M.**

Room Number: **325**

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SCR 57 which proposes to
3 extend the task force studying the effects of the January 2014 Red Hill fuel tank leak to include
4 an additional twenty-six (26) underground fuel storage tanks owned by the United States
5 military.

6 The DOH is committed to taking measures required to prevent the future releases from all
7 underground storage tanks. In an effort to address the challenges presented at Red Hill, the U.S.
8 Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the DOH are
9 committed to completing the ongoing negotiations that are designed to produce an
10 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The AOC is intended to establish a process to make
11 well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective improvements to protect the groundwater
12 resources beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. At this time, we believe that this
13 collaborative, enforceable approach provides a preferred way to address the environmental
14 concerns posed by this facility.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

16

17

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843




April 16, 2015

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

DUANE R. MIYASHIRO, Chair
ADAM C. WONG, Vice Chair
THERESIA C. McMURDO
DAVID C. HULIHEE

ROSS S. SASAMURA, Ex-Officio
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI, Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer 

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Members:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 57, SD 1: Expanding the Task Force Study of the Effects of the January 2014 Fuel Tank Leak at the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, established under Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73, HD 1, Regular Session of 2014, to include an additional Twenty-Six Underground Fuel Storage Tanks in the State owned by the United States Military

We support Senate Concurrent Resolution 57, SD1, which expands the Red Hill Fuel Facility Task Force's area of study to include twenty-six underground fuel storage tanks in the state owned by the United States Military and to continue monitoring the United States Navy's plans for remediation of the Red Hill facility fuel tanks.

We understand these twenty-six underground fuel tanks, in addition to those at Red Hill, are field-constructed tanks (FCTs) that have been operating exempt from the regulatory requirements that must be met by all other owners of underground fuel storage tanks. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), FCTs are very large and pose a substantial threat to human health and the environment (Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 223, p. 71732). Studies and groundwater monitor well test results already show fuel releases at Red Hill, the largest FCT in the state, have contaminated the groundwater and soil underneath the facility with petroleum hydrocarbons. Other studies and examinations on Red Hill find the steel tanks wearing from corrosion, concerns with the facility's mounting age and discuss the risks of a large catastrophic fuel release. These findings can mean losing a major source of drinking water if the study and mitigation necessary to protect the entire aquifer is not identified.

The Red Hill Taskforce's continued study of large underground field constructed fuel tanks and monitoring of the Navy's plans for remediating the Red Hill tanks is essential to identifying and implementing the measures needed to ensure our groundwater aquifer is protected, preserved and remains sustainable for Oahu's residents now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer